



# San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 1, 2008**

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### **PROPOSED PROCESS FOR LABOR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PREVENT “BACKROOM DEALS” AND ENFORCE THE STRONG MAYOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

**San Diego, CA**—Union labor negotiations are already underway this year and the Mayor is the “exclusive negotiator” for the City of San Diego with the City Council sitting only as an “independent fact finding panel” should there be an impasse. The recommendation was made today by City Attorney Michael Aguirre, as part of the clarification of the Mayor’s role under the 2004 voter-approved Strong Mayor Form of Government.

“This process protects the public interest and makes it harder for elected officials to cut backroom deals with union bosses,” said City Attorney Aguirre. “If there is a stalemate in labor negotiations between the Mayor and the union representatives, the City Council will hear the issues in public and provide their advice in writing to both parties.”

In a memorandum to Mayor Jerry Sanders, the City Attorney opined that “there can be no closed session briefings of negotiation progress with Council, nor contact by Council members with either party regarding these issues outside the scope of the fact finding process.”

According to Aguirre, the Mayor shall consider the Council’s recommendations in good faith, and attempt to effectuate a settlement based on Council’s recommendations.

To view today’s news conference, visit [www.sandiegocityattorney.org](http://www.sandiegocityattorney.org), and click “Media Center.” To view the City Attorney’s February 1, 2008 memorandum to the Mayor, click “Significant Reports and Legal Documents.”

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